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INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Attorney General
and Minister responsible for Multiculturalism

B.C. LEGISLATION ENSURES COMPLIANCE WITH AGREEMENT

VICTORIA – Attorney General Wally Oppal introduced legislation today to amend the Enforcement of Canadian Judgments and Decrees Act (ECJDA) in order for British Columbia to comply with the provisions of the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement between British Columbia and Alberta (TILMA).

The change to the Enforcement of Canadian Judgment and Decrees statute is necessary to add decisions made by TILMA dispute resolution panels to the definition of a Canadian judgment. The Province agreed upon signing TILMA to have enforcement provisions in place when the agreement comes into force on April 1, 2007; and this legislation fulfils that obligation. Alberta is moving ahead in parallel with B.C. to introduce similar enabling legislation.

On April 28, 2006, British Columbia and Alberta signed TILMA, which followed three years of joint cabinet meetings and consultations with ministries, business groups, academic institutions and regulatory bodies.

Currently, each province maintains separate standards and regulations that address the same issues. These differences often result in unnecessary barriers, overlap or duplication. Under TILMA, such measures will be identified and reconciled through mutual recognition or by other means. The result will be less red tape, fewer duplicate costs for workers and businesses, and a stronger economic foundation. At the same time, both provinces will move to higher standards in areas like environmental and consumer protection.

When it comes into force on April 1, 2007, TILMA will apply to all provincial government measures, such as legislation, regulations, standards, policies, procedures and guidelines that affect trade, investment and labour mobility.

A two-year transitional period will start April 2007, when the Provinces of B.C. and Alberta will continue to consult with local governments and others (such as occupational accreditation bodies) and negotiate any required special provisions or exclusions. In April 2009, TILMA will also apply to municipal organizations and other government entities.

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